

CAREER IN LIBRARIANSHIP

Introduction

Career has been defined by various dictionaries from two perspectives – the perspective of profession or vocation and perspective of period engaged in people's working life. According to [dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com), it is "an occupation or profession especially one requiring special training followed as one life's work". It went further to say it is 'a person's progress or general course of action through a phase of life as in profession or undertaking'.

Longman Dictionary on the other hand defines career as 'a job or profession that you are trained for, and which you do for a long period of your working life and which offers a chance to be promoted'. *Business Dictionary* defines career from the perspective of profession. It says that 'it is occupation, practice or vocation requiring mastery of skill through formal education and/or practical experience. However, it is not the issue of period that is the main focus of this presentation, but the professional aspect. It is to enlighten listeners on issues surrounding librarianship from the perspective of profession. A profession is defined by government and organized by respective professional bodies. Characteristics of profession include:

- Specialized training through formal education
- Professional Association with minimum standard set for practitioners.
- Professional ethics i.e. guidelines governing practice and enforced by professional bodies or legislation.
- Licensing by law among others.

· **What is a library?** According to UNESCO, the Library is an "Organised collection of published books and other reading and audio-visual materials and the *services of a staff able to provide and interpret such materials as are required* to meet the informational, research or recreational needs of its users"

o Types of Libraries:

Public or state Libraries– These are libraries funded by the national and state governments established to meet general information needs of the public. In a local parlance such libraries are called university of the common people because they cater for the informational needs of both educated and uneducated members of the public. They also perform spe

cial duties as the custodian of all government publications;

School Libraries – These are libraries of primary and secondary schools. They are expected to store basic texts story books and reference materials to suit and develop reading habit of school children;

Academic Libraries – These are libraries of tertiary institutions especially universities. Libraries of Polytechnics/Monotechnics, Colleges of Education are also regarded as academic libraries. Academic libraries store materials for reading and research in subjects taught in their parent institutions;

Research Libraries – These are libraries of research institutes like Cocoa Research Institute, Leather Research Institute, Nigeria Education Research Council, Raw Materials Research Development Council among others;

Special/private, professional (law, accountancy, engineering) libraries. These are libraries established to serve specialized interests. This could be a private library established by an individual. Often times, private libraries could emanate from the profession or vocation of the founder especially politicians e.g. Sopolu Library, Ikenne established by Late Chief Obafemi Awolowo, Obasanjo Presidential Library, Abeokuta established by Former President Olusegun Obasanjo. Such libraries will contain information about political life of the founder. Some private libraries are trade libraries having records and papers of business transacted by prominent business men. **Professional Libraries** are libraries established to cater for specialized professional use such as Law and Accountancy. Oftentimes professional libraries are established by professional bodies such as Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), Council of Registered Engineers of Nigeria (COREN). In some cases special libraries could be determined by the type of users, materials and equipment in the library. A good example of this is the library of the Federal College of Education (Special), Oyo. The library serves people - staff and students - with disabilities like the visually impaired, dumb and physically challenged. The building is purposely built to take care of various users, some materials are in brailles, recorded tapes and special equipment that slightly visually impaired users can use to read conventional books and when necessary, reading session are arranged by library staff for the visually-impaired as well.

- Who is not a librarian?

- o Library officers at the circulation desk, reference assistants, clerical officers and cleaners.

- **Who is a librarian?**

- o Reference to career talk on acquisition of career e.g. education
- o Professional Association – Nigerian Library Association,
- o Registration with Librarian Registration Council of Nigeria.

- **Education for librarianship**

- o OND, HND,
- o B.Sc,
- o MLS (MLIS, MLAIS, IRMA)
- o Ph.D (For academic librarians and teachers of librarianship).

Librarianship is taught in many of the Universities and some Polytechnics across all the geo-political zones in the country.

- **Attributes of a Librarian**

- o **Foresight – proactive:** A librarian should have foresight and be a step ahead of users. He/She should acquire materials in anticipation of users demand or request.
- o **Willing to help:** A librarian should have the spirit of serving irrespective of the status of the information seeker.
- o **Patience:** The Librarian has to be patient as different people of different background and temper usually visit the Library. He should not be in a hurry to dismiss people irrespective of the approach of a potential user of the Library
- o **Good Human Relation:** A librarian especially those dealing with library users are like sales men or public relation officer. He or she needs to be accommodating and be welcoming such that library users will be encouraged to seek support of the librarian.
- o **Punctual at Work:** In view of the fact that the library in most cases do not open for 24 hours, library staff should respect the adage that "*punctuality is the soul of business*" as readers will visit the library at the time convenient for them.
- o **Sociable and diplomatic:** A librarian should be sociable and be a good mix

er this will enable him/her to have fore-knowledge of expectations of users. He should be a good listener and diplomatic in dealing with request from users.

- **Career opportunity in librarianship**

- o Local – In all library listed above with perculiarities
- o **International:** Mostly academic and inter-governmental organizations like the United Nations, ECOWAS and research institutes like IITA, World Bank and UNDP among others
- o **Private** and in the advent of technology (Computer, iPad, GSM, Internet), infopreneurship. (**See list attached**)

- **New trends in the profession and challenges**

- o **Additional qualification:** Hitherto acquisition of a masters' degree in Library and Information automatically qualifies one as a professional librarian. That has changed in the academic sector as a doctor of philosophy (Ph.D) has become a necessity for academic librarians
- o **New technologies:** The advent of information technology as epitomized by the computer, internet and GSM has impacted greatly on librarianship. **Concept of Virtual Library -**
- o **Antidote to the above** – continuous education or/and on the job training.

Conclusion

An informed profession for those willing to contribute to an informed society and assist others. Quality profession that compares favourably with others in terms of educational qualification, remunerations and career progression.

30+ Super Library & Information Science Careers

The position of a librarian is a very old one indeed. The oldest libraries in the world date back several centuries, and there are many more that existed in ancient times. Librarians have a huge responsibility on their shoulders – they must help patrons find the right books, documents, and information they're looking for. They also need to be able to preserve and catalog information, handle archives, utilize modern technology and integrate it into their field, and much more. As a result, there are many different types of library careers out there today.

The number of library science careers continues to change, grow, and evolved thanks to the rise of modern technology. Computers, social media, and other tools have all made it much easier for librarians to perform their duties and it's also opened up a wide range of new career paths that can be followed. Those thinking of earning a library science degree will want to consider just where they want their career to take them.

With so many different possibilities, tracking down exactly the kind of position one wants begins by figuring out what overall goals there are and how to reach them.

To get started, think about the different opportunities out there. Here are some of the most exciting, super fresh library science careers one could choose to enter today.

1. **Library Services Consultant** – These professionals focus on providing their deep pool of knowledge and their skills to libraries around the country. It's much like a professional consultant for businesses, except that these professionals focus on helping libraries meet different issues and challenges ranging from integrating digital archiving tools into their efforts to the use of social media for promoting the library, and much more.
2. **Library Manager** – Library managers oversee the entire operative side of the library. Job titles in this area can include department manager, branch manager, director or associate director. They can be responsible for work schedules, evaluations of employees, managing budgets and training.
3. **Web Archivist** – Many major libraries have begun the process of building a solid website presence, and this process involves the archiving of all documents, records, microfilms, and more. Basically, the process involves transferring hard media into digital form and then uploading it onto the website for access by employees or possibly by the public.
4. **Integrated Library System Administrator** – This position is a management style position that requires one to oversee the overall IT systems used in a library setting. It can be very challenging and responsibilities could include things like managing interactive features, website issues, internal server problems, and more. It's essentially the IT position of the library world, and highly important.
5. **Metadata Analyst** – You will lead and assist strategic efforts that are related to projecting the growth of data and also your company's metadata repository.
6. **Data Administrator** – Someone who is skilled in the organization of information and has experience with databases can become a data administrator. You will ensure that company databases work efficiently.
7. **Business Researcher** – People who want to start a company or small business will hire a well-organized data professional who is proficient in various types of research and data collection.
8. **School Librarian** – This isn't as new as some other positions out there in the librarianship field, but the fact is that school librarians today are more frequently tasked with being media managers and overseeing things like student's access to computers, videos, and other information resources.
9. **Librarian of Special Collections** – Many public and private libraries have special collections of historic documents that need the skills of a librarian with a great deal of expertise in archives and extensive historic materials.

10. **Technology Coordinator** – This type of employee does a great deal of research in most cases and helps clients and suppliers work with new technology.

11. **Manager of Information Services** – An information services manager is typically responsible for team management, training, research, data and resource management in either a government organization, nonprofit or private company.

12. **Document Control Specialist** – Compile and assist in the internal publication of many types of records and files for private organizations. You might work with engineering drawings, white papers, reports, and generally support project managers in gathering and documenting records for various products and departments in a company.

13. **Archival Consultant** – Be in charge of managing special paper and digital libraries at both public and private libraries around the country.

14. **Web Services Librarian** – Leads the vision, design and management of a library's web presence to meet needs of students, faculty and staff of the school or university. Conduct analysis of the Website taxonomy and improve the user experience.

15. **Metadata Librarian** – This position may focus on one specific field or topic, but usually involves multiple subjects. Basically, it's the overall management of metadata in a library setting and could involve a wide range of different responsibilities.

16. **Archives Technician** – Many libraries utilize multiple methods of archiving their documents. This position allows one to assume the position of managing the technology and systems used for archival purposes. It is challenging and frequently involves interesting situations that need to be addressed fully.

17. **Digital Librarian** – Manage the digital library of many libraries and also private companies by handling content import, metadata management, virtual reference services, publisher communication and work closely with technology and sales staff.

18. **Library Technician** – This is basically the standard librarian position that most associate with the position. But it too is considered to be a 'fresh' position due to the large number of unique challenges and techniques applied to it today. Card cataloging is gone, and today digital technologies are used to help manage libraries. Additional responsibilities could include a wide range of things, and this position's responsibilities are constantly shifting and evolving with the field itself.

19. **Law Librarian** – This is a position that involves overseeing and managing libraries related to law. It may be a position that is offered by a specific legal firm, but could also be a government position.

20. **Director Of Content Acquisition** – This role basically focuses on the purchasing and accumulation of resources and then the overall sharing of those resources. In short, those in this position are responsible for receiving, locating, and obtaining books, documents, and other pieces to add to a library and then overseeing the cataloging, archiving, and availability of those items.

21. **Researcher** – A researcher with a library science degree can often work as a freelancer in a specialty field. For example, you can specialize as a researcher in Census records, Congressional records, court records, diplomatic records and more.

22. **Research Librarian** – Working in a research library setting, these professionals oversee things like medical documents and books as well as scientific papers and books.

23. **Chief Information Officer** – Companies that tend to traffic in large amounts of electronic data frequently have a chief information officer that can in some cases come from a liberal arts background, such as a library science specialty.

24. **Data Officer** – A corporate officer that specializes in utilizing information as an asset through data processing, data mining and analysis.
25. **Medical Librarian** – These professionals frequently work on the faculty of either biomedical degree or healthcare degree programs. They teach health care professionals how to evaluate and access information and to contribute their expertise on many medical topics.
26. **Clinical Informatics Librarian** – You typically will evaluate, plan and develop many types of clinical support services in the special library in which you work. You also will provide specialized information services to many different project teams.
27. **Pages** – Usually are responsible for returning books and other resources to the right spots on the shelves. They also keep books and other reference materials in the proper order. Some pages will do requests for getting materials that are in private areas of the library.
28. **Library Director** – This is generally the top leadership position in a library. You will usually oversee and prepare the budget, develop policies for employment and service, make strategic plans and fund raise.
29. **Library Administrator** – This type of library professional will typically administer the operation of a technical library for a school, department or facility. Usually is in charge of all administrative duties that are related to scheduling, planning, implementation of policy and needs assessment.
- Knowledge Specialist** – You can work as a knowledge specialist for many different consulting firms where you will capture and process case summaries, case examples, proposals, tools and templates and also perform meta tagging of case information. These are just some of the hottest jobs available today in the field of librarianship. Finding the right position for you to enter involves determining where specific interests lie and then deciding on how to go about reaching those goals. There are many library science programs that provide a good generalized education in the field, while many more may offer specialized areas of study for one to take advantage of. In either case, it's good to know that there are many different job opportunities out there for one to choose from.

[30 Library & Information Science Jobs You Can Get Today](#)

June 3, 2013 in [Library Science Articles](#) by [Robert](#)

The field of library and information science has a wide variety of types of jobs available. Most of them are in either public libraries or in the libraries of education institutions such as colleges and universities. This is where the majority of the positions are that offer specializations and the opportunity to work in the library setting but to further concentrate on an area of individual interest.

SEE ALSO: [Library Science Degree Comparisons](#)

The following list includes 30 of the kinds of jobs available to those studying library and information services, **including the title of the job with a description of the kind of**

facility it is in, as well as a brief description of that job's duties. The link of the title transports to an example of a job listing for that kind of position with more details, including job requirements and salary ranges offered for that particular position.

1. [Head Librarian of College School Library](#) – This professional position would report to the main campus librarians dealing with library material to a particular school or department within a college. Particular duties would involve planning and development of all services and maintenance of the collections housed within the library, as well as leading all library staff.
2. [Librarian of County Library](#) – This position involves performing duties at the information desk within the library as well as handling incoming requests for information or training. Assist in searches, generates reports, as well as representing the library for the community.
3. [Library Services Manager](#) – Leading staff and meeting service requirements for all library services on and off site is the primary responsibility of a person in this position. Also needs to remain vigilant on meeting customer needs as well as anticipating and preparing for future upcoming needs.
4. [Science Reference Librarian for College](#) – Within a college or university framework, this position would likely exist within the reference and research department of that college or university. They would assist the college students in their research needs and promote the services offered at the library to increase use and access.
5. [Supervisory Librarian at Smithsonian Institution](#) – This professional position works in highly distinguished museums and involves supervising the daily activities of a large specialized and technical staff. They need to be familiar with both access to information and ability to establish exhibitions to present their collections in an attractive and appealing manner.
6. [Business Librarian for Business College](#) – Deal with the specific needs of business students in their research and studies. Assist in developing expertise of students in the wide variety of information services available for use in their studies.
7. [Data Management Services Librarian for College Library](#) – This position involves the managing the lifecycle of data that has been obtained through years of research, projects, and studies and generate systems to handle them. This covers the cataloging, storage, and easy retrieval of this essential data.
8. [Digital Humanities Librarian for College Library](#) – This person will be responsible for overseeing the holdings and accessing all digital arts and humanities upon request for the population of a college library. They also will encourage change and innovation in the way the students and faculty think to use this kind of information.
9. [Digital Scholarship Librarian for College](#) – For all needs of the faculty and student populations, this person will create support services in all areas of digital scholarship. This includes delivering online course materials, managing university repositories, as well as developing the kind of teaching materials that will aid and assist students in having increased access to information.
10. [Director of Development for College Library](#) – This position requires the designing and implementing of all fundraising and activities involving existing d

onors for the library system. This senior administration official will handle all areas of gifts and stewardship that serve to support the library's essential services.

11. [Geospatial Information Librarian for College Library](#) – All services related to the GIS functions will be managed by this person. They are a part of the Earth Sciences department, and handle all GIS related activities that are required by the faculty and students in their own research endeavors. They also need to manage all geospatial information that has been previously collected and obtain systems and programs that provide for the storage and access for future projects.

12. [GIS & Map Librarian for College](#) – This librarian takes primary responsibility for all geospatial data of the university, both in the collection and the use for the college population. The use of relevant software and the training of faculty and students of the best use of such materials also falls under the responsibilities of this library professional.

13. [Head of Access Services and Collections Maintenance for College](#) – This professional needs to establish a collaborative team that works to provide a high level of customer satisfaction to the faculty and students of the college. The collect usage statistics and prepare reports on how these access services can be modified or improved to increase efficiency and use by the college personnel.

14. [Head of Instruction Services for College](#) – This person manages the overall functioning of the information support desks in the library and in the instruction and orientation offerings given by the college through the library. This also involves the creation and evolution of current services into the future services to meet the needs of the faculty and students that not have been implemented or designed yet.

15. [Head of Library Application Support for College](#) – This position works to create newer, more seamless systems that make for easier and more direct access of information by the college population. This involves the ability to access the total amount of information available in the physical library building as well as in the virtual universe accessible via computer or electronic media.

16. [Head of Fine Arts Library for College](#) – This person will serve as primary community contact to both encourage and develop a broader system of digital arts and fine arts associated with the college location. This includes improving recognition of the collections already in existence, but also to increase their visibility in the community when it come to similar scholarship and exhibitions and their related supports.

17. [Head of Architecture Library for College](#) – This library within the architecture school at a college would be responsible for the developing of collections and providing access for all information relating to architecture, landscape architecture, and city planning curriculum. The current drive in these positions is to grow their digital collections and increase their familiarity of those resources available through digital formats.

18. [Prospect Research Analyst for College](#) – Primarily involved in the identifying and analysis of prospects for the college. Answering to the division of advancement services, they do all research and work to establish donor relations with

h those prospects. They also maintain and update all informational resources related to these reported prospects.

19. [Prospect Strategy Analyst for College](#) – This person works to establish the methods that can be utilized to help engage prospective donors. They also provide updated information as contacts and development of relations is established. These efforts are tracked and analyzed for the individual college departments and their own projects and proposals.

20. [Librarian of College Library](#) – For people in this role, their duties involve the management of the physical libraries, the digital scholarship related to library activities, and the information technology available to provide access to information needed by all faculty and students. They also create newer systems and efficiencies to provide services to an increasing number of people in an increasingly timely manner.

21. [Administrator/Director of Library System](#) – This position involves working directly with the board of directors to carry out all executive duties and policies. They work with all library staff and involve themselves in the daily operations of the library. All public relations are involved as well, in the designing of collaborations and creating programs that incorporate the public at large with library services offered.

22. [Coordinator of Testing Services for College](#) – This person creates an environment that provides the kinds of library services available to the people of the community in person as well as with services available to them online. Their specific duties involve coordination and oversight of the testing center, which is available for different groups within the college.

23. [Continuing Education Consultant for State Library](#) – This state library position is involved in the statewide education system used for all public libraries. They would be required to plan and implement all programs of training and continuing education offerings for the state. This includes the selection of curriculum materials, and designing the individual modules used to disseminate all relevant materials.

24. [Head of Technical Services and Systems for Public Library](#) – This position deals with the automation systems and core technical operations within the library facility. Persons that qualify for this kind of position usually need to have a combination of both a master's degree in library science as well as some experience working with the information systems within most library organizations.

25. [Instructional Resources Librarian for College](#) – This position involves the college's materials for teachers, textbooks, as well as all other physical works. They are responsible for outreach activities as well as ongoing training and development of all staff and instructors within the college environment. They are involved in the collection and assessment of all holdings within the library.

26. [Instructional Services Librarian for College](#) – Positions similar to this are involved in more of the services involved with instruction, such as the literacy programs offered by most libraries. These individuals work with the college in order to service requests for information or instruction by different members of the college community, covering all departments and populations.

27. [Operations Manager for County Library](#) – The routine functions that need to

to be performed regularly within a library environment are all overseen by this library professional. They are responsible for all routine analytical functions and for ensuring that all necessary tasks are completed effectively and efficiently. There is also coordination essential with other county departments in order to provide as much in the way of services to them as possible.

28. **Outreach Librarian** – This professional is charged with creating and increasing the libraries reach within the communities in both local groups as well as their standing on a county, state, or larger basis. This can be further enhanced with social media presence, and through additional modern technologies and communication. Periodic evaluations of outreach activities is required to assess possible additional ideas.

29. **Adult Services Librarian for Public Library** – The ability to work well with adults and design programs aimed at improving usage of new technologies. This includes creating adult offerings, and maintaining collections of interest to older library patrons. These usually include literature and periodical holdings, but are attempting to encourage increased familiarity and usability of online services as well.

30. **Teen Librarian for Public Library** – Designing programs and providing services of interest to the younger population, ages 11-17, is the goal of a teen librarian. These will aim to increase outreach to those segments of the community and try to create a more active relationship between them and their local library. This position works in combination with the other librarians to create efficiencies where different programs may have overlapping requirements.

These 30 job opportunities offer an insight into the types of positions available to those interested in library and information sciences. These varying careers can include very executive responsibilities on the top end, and very public oriented positions working at the information support desk within the local library.